

Building Biology News from the IBN, December 2024



Winter wonderland: St. James' Chapel, Auerberg near Rosenheim, Germany

"Every project begins with a vision – it's the start of success."

[Tomas Gaertner](#), Building Biology Consulting Office IBN, Taunton, England

Dear readers,

For the future of our Institute, 2024 was a very important year in which we were able to successfully complete many major projects:

- *Relaunch of www.baubiologie.de and www.buildingbiology.com*
- *New release of the [Standard of Building Biology Testing Methods SBM-2024](#)*
- *Renewal of ISO 9001 certification and AZAV accreditation (see below for more information)*
- *Implementation of a new CRM (Customer Management Software)*

*We also have big plans for **2025**. We will tell you more in the next newsletter.*

*The word "**aura**" was chosen as the youth word of the year 2024 (based on a poll by Langenscheidt, a well-known German publisher of travel, language, and reference products). According to the judges, it describes "the personal charisma or impression a person makes on others." We are delighted that personal charisma is becoming more important to young people in the age of influencers, social media, and artificial intelligence. This gives us hope that in the future – as in building biology! – professional, respectful, and authentic conduct, rather than superficial marketing, is what counts. In other words, a very positive and encouraging outlook for 2025!*

And now we wish you a happy and peaceful holiday season. ✨

Winfried Schneider & the IBN Team

We will also use the "quiet" time from 20 December 2024 to rest and relax. We will be back and ready on Tuesday, 6 January 2025.

From the Building Biology Magazine

Load-bearing masonry made of unfired clay bricks according to DIN 18940



The new DIN standard for load-bearing masonry made of unfired clay bricks applies to buildings up to 13 meters in height. This standard is an important step towards the use of climate- and resource-friendly construction methods and shows where it can replace energy-intensive masonry materials.

Authors: Prof. Dr. Christof Ziegert and Johanna Baier, coauthors of DIN 18940

[Find out more](#)

Conversion and renovation of a village community center



An old half-timbered house was extensively renovated to create a new meeting place for the community of Schorfheide. Among other things, the flagship project "Müllers Ruh" was fitted with innovative clay climate panels in the ceiling. A visit to this idyllic place in the Brandenburg region.

Author: Stefan Kriz

[Find out more](#)

Feeling great with hemp, lime, and clay



A house was built on the island of Rügen in the Baltic Sea, using a hemp-lime construction system that has not yet been approved by the building authorities. This vacation home made of natural building materials such as hemp shives, wood, and clay radiates self-confidence.

Author: Achim Pilz

[Find out more](#)

Building Material Exchange – Give away instead of throw away!



The building material exchange of the "Forum Ökologie Traunstein e.V." has been avoiding waste through reuse in the field of construction and renovation since 1992. Windows, doors, sinks, demolition of whole houses, and much more are brokered. Since 2006, the Forum has held the "Umweltbildung.Bayern" seal of approval.

[Find out more](#)

Similar initiatives are found around the world:

Australia: [Revival Projects](#)

Canada: [BMEx](#)

Great Britain: [material reuse portal](#)

USA: [All for Reuse](#)

North America: [Habitat for Humanity Stores](#)

How to become a Building Biology Consultant IBN



Are you looking for a training course to help you navigate information jungle of healthy and sustainable building and renovating?

You've come to the right place!

Since 1977, our **Building Biology Online Course** has proven itself and it is constantly updated.

In Germany, this online course is certified by AZAV, which means that course participants can [be reimbursed](#) for up to 100% of the course fees – this applies not only to job seekers but also to employees who want or need to continue their education.

[Click here](#) for full details of what is included and how to register. If you register as a guest, you can also access selected [course modules](#) for free to see if this course is right for you.

Good to know

Rising construction costs – online meeting of the IBN Building Biology Consulting Offices on 29 November 2024

Topics and speakers

- "Construction crisis – so what?" with Michael Mark
- "How to finance the renovation of a building using the building biology approach" with Stefan Schön and Heiko Anders
- New release of the Standard of Building Biology Testing Methods SBM-2024 with Johannes Schmidt/IBN

The aim was not to gloss over the situation of rising real estate, construction, and renovation costs, but to analyze everything in detail and make recommendations for the future.

Successful recertification: Quality that speaks for itself!

We are pleased to inform you that this year the IBN has successfully renewed its ISO 9001 certification as well as its AZAV accreditation as an education provider and its AZAV approval for training procedures/courses. This does not only ensure the high quality of our educational courses, but also enables us to continue supporting people with education vouchers from the German Federal Employment Agency to participate in our Building Biology Course IBN. [Find out more](#)

Question for ChatGPT:

Is the use of the Standard of Building Biology Testing Methods SBM recommended?

Answer from ChatGPT: Yes, the Standard of Building Biology Testing Methods (SBM) is generally recommended, especially for people who are sensitive to electromagnetic fields or other environmental factors, or who are interested in healthy living spaces. Building biology testing aims to minimize the impact of environmental factors on well-being and health. The SBM plays an important role in this by providing a sound and systematic method for measuring and assessing exposure.

Benefits of the Building Biology Standard (SBM):

Objective measurement: The Standard helps to accurately measure electromagnetic fields and other physical agents, providing an objective basis for decisions on structural measures.

Prevent health risks: Measuring and minimizing exposure to environmental factors can prevent potential health risks such as electromagnetic hypersensitivity, sleep disorders, or other stress-related illnesses.

Holistic approach: The Standard takes into account not only electromagnetic fields, but also other factors, such as noise- and light-related pollution, that are critical to a healthy living environment.

Forward-looking: The Standard is constantly evolving to reflect new scientific findings and technological developments, such as the increasing prevalence of 5G networks and other modern communication technologies.

Issues to consider:

Cost and effort: The measurements and detailed evaluation according to the SBM can involve a certain amount of effort and cost.

Professional execution: It is important that the measurements are performed by certified building biology testing specialists or specialists familiar with the Standard to ensure an accurate and reliable assessment.

ChatGPT is a so-called chatbot that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to communicate with users through text-based news and images.



Stand-alone infrared heater made of clay and shielded for electromagnetic fields



The article "[Wall heating – hot water or electric?](#)" gave us the idea to develop, together with the company [WEM](#), an infrared heater (with or without castors) that uses a clay panel (approx. 60/80 cm or 2/2.5 ft, 110 W) and is shielded for electromagnetic fields. We now have this prototype available in our offices and it is being used with growing enthusiasm, especially by our team members who get cold easily. **We are now looking for an entrepreneur or a company that would like to produce and offer such a heater in small or large series;** please contact WEM directly if you are interested.

Building biology Christmas presents

Today, everyone wants to live, build, or renovate in a healthy and sustainable way. So why not give someone a truly life-changing gift from building biology?

- Participation in the [Building Biology Course IBN](#)
- Advice from a Building Biology Consulting Office in [Germany](#) or [worldwide](#).
Please contact your preferred consulting office directly!



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